

Final Report on 2022 NEAR International Forum

May 2022



동북아시아지역자치단체연합사무국

(The Secretariat of the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments)

2022 NEAR International Forum

Government officials from member regional governments, experts and businesspersons in areas related to the sixth industry or the agro-food trade industry in Northeast Asia get together and held an international forum to discuss development strategies for farming villages and the agro-food industry and seek ways to cooperate.

I

Overview

- **Date:** Thursday, April 28, 2022, 14:00~17:40
- **Venue:** POSCO International Hall, Pohang, Gyeongsangbuk-do
- **Hosted by:** NEAR / NEAR Secretariat
- **Theme:** Development Strategies for Northeast Asian Farming Villages and the Agro-Food Industry
- **Format:** online·offline hybrid, simultaneous interpretation from Korean into Chinese, Japanese, English, Mongolian, and Russian, and vice versa
- ※ foreign speakers and participants(online), Korean speakers and panelists and Korean residents(offline)
- **Participants:** about 250 persons(government officials from member regional governments, experts, or businesspersons in areas related to the sixth industry, interested officers from related or international organizations, etc.)
 - China: 20 participants from 10 regional governments(6 members, 2 observers, 2 non-members)
 - Japan: 7 persons from 5 regional governments
 - Korea: 89 persons from 10 regional governments
[online (10 persons from 19 regional governments), offline(70

persons from 7 regional governments)]

※ online and offline participation: 3 regional governments

- Mongolia: 53 persons from 20 regional governments
- Russia: 21 persons from 11 regional governments
- Vietnam: 1 person from 1 regional government
- International Organizations: UCLG(2), AER(1), ICLEI(3)(1 East Asia Secretariat, 2 Korea Secretariat), R20(2), FOVIRA(2), TCS(5)
- Research Institutions: Heilongjiang Academy of Social Sciences(12), Russian Academy of Science(1)
- Speakers·panelists, Secretariat staff members, NEAR honorary ambassadors: 31 persons

※ **High-ranking officials**

- Mr. KIM Ok-chae, NEAR Secretary-General
- Mr. HA Dae-sung, Vice Governor, Economic Planning of Gyeongsangbuk-do Provincial Government
- 3 NEAR Secretariat Honorary Ambassadors (YIM Byeong-jin, YANG Gye-hwa, and KIM Gyeong-ho)
- Ms. OU Boqian, TCS Secretary-General
- Mongolia(Governor O. Amgalanbaatar, Governor of Govi-Altai Province, Vice Governor I. Dorjsuren of Uvurkhangai Province
Vice Governor B. Ankhbayar of Govisumber Province, and Vice Governor Sh. Myanganbayar of Zavkhan Province)

○ Program

- Opening Remarks (Mr. KIM Ok-chae, NEAR Secretary-General)
- Congratulatory Remarks [Mr. HA Dae-sung, Vice Governor, Economic Planning of Gyeongsangbuk-do Provincial Government, Ms. OU Boqian Secretary-General of the TCS]
- Keynote Speech (Mr. LEE Dong-phil, Former Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs)
- Presentations (experts from Japan, China, Mongolia, Russia, and Korea)
- Discussions and Q&A Sessions

○ Expense: KRW 85,775,490

II

Details of the Event

Time			Specifics		Note
Thursday April 28, 2022 POSCO Int'l Hall Pohang Gyeongbuk Korea	12:00 ~ 13:30	90'	Registration and Lunch		
	13:30 ~ 1350	20'	Tea Time (Keynote Speaker, Presenters and Panelists)		
	Opening Session [48']				
	14:00 ~ 14:48	48'	Opening Remarks	Mr. KIM Ok-chae NEAR Secretary-General	5'
			Congratulatory Remarks	Mr. HA Dae-sung Vice Governor, Economic Planning of Gyeongsangbuk-do Provincial Government	each 5'
				Ms. OU Boqian TCS Secretary-General	
			Group Photo		3'
			Keynote Speech (Korea)		30'
	14:48 ~ 16:03	75'	Presentations		
			1.Rural Culture and the Sixth Industry in Japan (Japan) 2.Strategies to Foster the Sixth Industry and Ways to Attract Young Talents into Rural Areas in Northeast Asia (China) 3.Ways to Increase Income in Rural Areas through the Fostering of the Sixth Industry in Northeast Asia (Mongolia) 4.Ways to Develop Industrial Agriculture in the Primorsky Territory (Russia) 5.Ways to Facilitate the Agro-Food Trade under the WTO/RECEP Regimes (Korea)		each 15'
	16:03 ~ 16:13	10'	Coffee Break		
	16:13 ~ 17:03	50'	Discussions and Q & A Sessions		
			Panelists (6 persons) *Presider: Dr. KIM Dong-hwan, Ph.D, President of the Agro-Food New Marketing Institute *Dr. KIM Sung-soo, Ph.D, President of the Association of Korean Agro-Food Sixth Industry *Dr. KIM Tae-kyun, Ph.D, Professor at Kyungpook National University, South Korea *Dr. SUH Jin-kyo, Ph.D, Senior Researcher at the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy *Mr. SHIN Hyun-gon, International Cooperation Officer at Jeollanam-do Provincial Government (Former Vice-President of the Korea Agro-Fisheries & Food Trade Corporation) *Dr. JUNG Chan-young, Ph.D, Specialist at the Korea Tourism Organization		
	17:03 ~ 17:05	2'	Closing		



Presentations

- **Keynote Speech: Mr. LEE Dong-phil, Former Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs**
 - He emphasized the necessity to provide government programs to foster the sixth industry so as to recover rural areas facing extinction risks.
 - He proposed that NEAR establish and operate NEAR-affiliated Research Forum for the Sixth Industrialization, educate and train individuals and businesses related to the sixth industry, and provide joint marketing for products and services of the sixth industry in Northeast Asia in order to develop Northeast Asian rural areas and strengthen cooperation for the sixth industrialization.

- **Speaker 1: Dr. ONISHI Chie, Ph.D, a researcher at the Kyushu Okinawa Agricultural Research Center NARO, Japan**
 - She presented individual type and community-wide type of Japanese sixth industrialization.
 - She explained that it created employment, provided opportunities for women and young people to play active roles, increased income for farm households, attracted higher numbers of tourists, revitalized local areas, raised the reputation of agricultural products and regions, and resulted in the increase of local population.

- **Speaker 2: Prof. WANG Guangbin. Head of the Rural Economy Development Planning Research Center, Shanxi Agricultural University, China**
 - China is promoting the sixth industry as a national development strategy and has taken on the “Government assistance + market mechanism + farm households’

participation” model

- The key to the sixth industrial development in China is to secure qualified workers. To this end, he stressed the urgency of having a system in place so as to attract and foster young talents.

○ Speaker 3: **Dr. T. Nassanjargal, Ph.D, Assistant Dean of Mongolian State University of Agriculture, Mongolia**

- She introduced the current state of agriculture in Mongolia and its features thereof. Furthermore, she mentioned the possibility of fostering the sixth industry and introduced an agriculture project in the Gobi Desert and Gyeongsangbukdo’s assistance and cooperation.
- She also emphasized fostering of professional workforce with knowledge of cultivation, processing, and sales to activate the sixth industry and create an interest in agriculture among young people by introducing smart technology that enables year-round cultivation.

○ Speaker 4: **Dr. KOMIN Andrey, Ph.D, President of Primorsky Territory State Academy of Agriculture, Russia**

- Industrial agricultural complexes came to be developed in the Primorsky Territory and throughout Russia, including livestock industry, agricultural cultivation, and bee-farming.
- Korean corporations advanced to the Primorsky Territory and got involved in manufacturing, preservation, processing, and exportation. The Primorsky Territory hopes to export agricultural products, as it creates better relations with the Asia Pacific region.

○ Speaker 5: **Dr. CHO Eun-gi, Ph.D, Director of the GB Agency on Marketing for Agro-food & Farmers Academy, Korea**

- He raised the necessity to cooperate with mutually complementary agricultural products under the regime of the recently ratified RCEP(Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership).
- Moreover, he proposed to organize Agro-food Working Group, a special body to certify the origin of agro and livestock products, and plant & animal inspection and quarantine/joint control group to strengthen mutual cooperation on agro-food technology between countries.

Discussions

○ Panelist 1: **Dr. KIM Sung-soo, Ph.D, President of the Association of Korean Agro-Food Sixth Industry**

- Japan is engaging rural areas culturally, while China is focusing on fostering agriculture and a workforce for the sixth industry. Mongolia's cooperation with Gyeongsangbuk-do to introduce the sixth industry is promising; it is necessary to enact laws regarding the government-led sixth industry. Russia has a history related to the Korean people and the start of agriculture in the priomorsky territory. Korea proposes imports and exports tailored to the features of each country to expand multilateral agro-food trade.
- Proposal of the Development of the Sixth Industry
 - Agriculture means to get away from farming and be reborn as an entrepreneur.
 - There should be a redesigning of the policy of returning to farming and returning home as an alternative to prevent the rural decay and maintain sustainable agriculture to have a better relationship with agriculture.
 - There is an urgent need to expand national interest, publicity, and sales channels to expand the sales

channels of certified products for the sixth industry of agro-food.

- He proposed inviting North Korea to participate in the future NEAR forum on agriculture; it will be appropriate to promote agricultural development on the Korean peninsula and to trade agricultural products.

○ Panelist 2: **Dr. IM Tae-kyun, Ph.D, Professor of Kyungpook National University**

- Speakers all agreed on the necessity of the sixth industrialization in order to revitalize the rural economy, respond to rural decay, and realize urban-rural balanced development.
- He proposed that NEAR members should proceed in the following order to foster the sixth industry:
 - There should be a change in government policies to support the sixth industrialization to customer-oriented policies.
 - Local government should take charge of financial aid policies for the sixth industrialization.
 - The choice to pursue individual type or community-based type should depend on the sixth industry products(processed, experimental) and regional features.
 - The sixth industry should be led by the young generation
 - It is necessary to revitalize the trade of the sixth industry products(processed, experimental) - NEAR is expected to play a role.

○ Panelist 3: **Dr. SUH Jin-kyo, Ph.D, Senior Researcher at the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy**

- The sixth industrialization of agriculture should proceed according to the global economy trends, industry, and trade; only when it is so reflected will it have a high possibility of success.

- He proposed following factors to consider when pursuing the sixth industrialization.
 - Digitalization of economy(smart farming, analysis of consumer taste through big data
 - Achieving low carbon/carbon neutrality is a global task, so agriculture should join in the worldwide response to climate change.
 - A customized sixth industrialization is needed with the realities of agriculture faced by each country and sustainability taken into consideration.

○ Panelist 4: **Mr. SHIN Hyun-gon, Ph.D, International Cooperation Officer at Jeollanam-do Provincial Government(Former Vice-President of the Korea Agro-Fishers & Food Trade Corporation)**

- Despite the COVID-19 pandemic in the past two years, it is promising to see that agricultural production has increased by a large percentage, as seen in each country's case report. However, diverse efforts should be made in order for the sixth industry to remain sustainable.
- In conclusion, export is the answer. Instead of being self-sufficient, producing, processing, and distributing products will be needed. For example, taking advantage of a story-telling strategy by using the Tokbokki story given by a member of the BTS, who are the global stars, so as to promote distribution should be encouraged. Moreover, it is necessary to foster a professional workforce and make active investments in R & D. Now is the time to move from local to international.

○ Panelist 5: **Dr. JUNG Chan-young, Ph.D, Specialist at the Korea Tourism Organization**

- As in the case of China and Mongolia, securing professional

workforce is a big task. Tourism is also experiencing difficulty in securing a professional workforce in Korea, but the “Tourism Dure Project”(selection of local or returning villagers as intermediaries, discovering and supporting tourism projects) is currently under progress.

- The Korean Tourism Organization has a website called “every corner of Korea,” so collaboration in public relations field is possible. In the case of Mongolia, a tourism workforce supply services center will be built in Ulaanbaatar city, so cooperation related to the fostering of a professional workforce will be possible in the future.

Opening Sessions



Presentations



Discussions and Q&A Sessions



Luncheon and Dinner



Registration and Booklets



Event Hall

